

Iowa Crops & Weather



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JANUARY COLD SNAP OCCURS

Iowa received winter weather in the form of snow and colder temperatures during January. The snow, however, did not appear to be enough to improve soil moisture availability, as 70 percent of the state was reported as being short to very short on soil moisture. This level increased from 58 percent of the state being short to very short during the month of December. Given the dry and mild weather carried over from December, farming duties such as fertilizer and lime application, movement of grain, and some tiling have continued. Some freezing of pipes was reported.

At the end of January, the average depth of snow cover across Iowa was 1 inch, compared to no snow cover last month, and 5 inches at the same time last year. The average depth of frost penetration for the state was 16 inches, compared to 5 inches last month, and 8 inches at the same time last year. Soil moisture availability was rated 29 percent very short, 41 percent short, 29 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Movement of grain for the state was 25 percent none, 48 percent light, 24 percent moderate, and 3 percent heavy. A comparison of this month's grain movement to historic data is shown in the graph below.

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was 6 percent short, 78 percent adequate, and 16 percent surplus. Quality of hay and roughage supplies was 8 percent poor, 40 percent fair, and 52 percent good. Utilization of stubble fields for grazing rated 28 percent none, 24 percent limited, 30 percent moderate, and 18 percent extensive.

Hog and pig losses in January were 17 percent below average, 71 percent average, and 12 percent above average. Cattle and calf losses were 22 percent below average, 76 percent average, and 2 percent above average. The bitter cold toward the end of January added stress on the cattle and hogs.

IOWA PRELIMINARY MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – JANUARY 2003

General Summary: January temperatures averaged 19.5 degrees or 1.7 degrees above normal while precipitation totaled 0.39 inches or 0.56 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 63rd warmest and 14th driest January among 131 years of state records.

Temperatures: January got off to a very mild start with temperatures averaging well above normal through the first nine days of the month. The mildest day was on the 8th when afternoon temperatures reached into the 60's across the southern two-thirds of the state with Indianola climbing all the

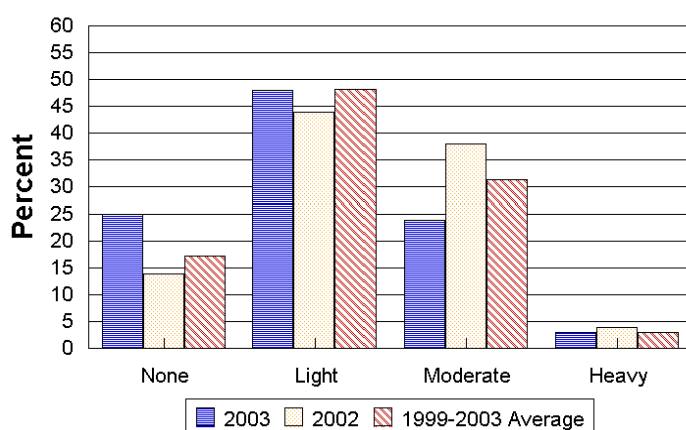
way to 70 degrees. However, 15 of the final 22 days of the month averaged colder than normal. The coldest weather arrived on the 23rd when temperatures of -5 degrees or lower overspread the entire state. Sibley reported the month's lowest temperature with a -18 degree reading. Wind chills dipped to a low of -38 degrees (-53 degrees under the old wind chill formula that was in use prior to last winter) at Mason City on the morning of the 23rd.

Heating Degree Day Totals: Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 24 percent greater than last January but were 4 percent less than normal. Thus far this heating season (since July 1, 2002), degree day totals are also running 24 percent greater than last season and 4 percent less than normal.

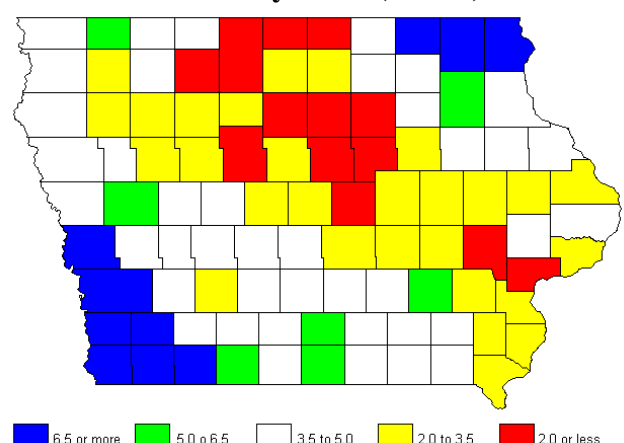
Precipitation: The very dry weather pattern of recent months persisted through January as all Iowa reporting points recorded less precipitation than usual. The largest snow event thus far this winter occurred on the 15th-16th when 8.0 inches of snow was recorded at Randolph. However, snowfall with this mid-month storm was restricted to the southwest one-half of the state and produced a state average of only 1.5 inches. Snowfall for the month averaged 3.8 inches across Iowa. This amount exactly doubles the season-to-date snowfall amount for Iowa but is still the lowest January total since 1989. The season-to-date snowfall total of 7.6 inches is 11.8 inches less than usual for this point in the winter and is the 8th lowest seasonal total among 116 years of statewide snowfall data. The statewide average precipitation total over the past 3 months (Nov 1, 2002 to Jan 31, 2003) was only 0.86 inch. This is Iowa's lowest precipitation total for any three month period in 130 years of state records (old record 0.94 inch, Nov. 1976 to Jan. 1977). However, this record low total is only 3.46 inches less than the 4.32 inch normal for this time period. Growing season precipitation deficits have been much higher. The largest three-month precipitation shortfall came in the June to August 1886 period when the actual precipitation of 4.64 inches was 8.83 inches less than normal for that time of year (13.47 inches).

New Normals in Effect: Effective with the January 2003 data, the new 1971-2000 normals are being used in all State Climatologist's reports. Normals are routinely updated once every 10 years. The new normals include the 1991-2000 period and drop the 1961-1970 period. Overall, compared to the old 1961-1990 normals, Iowa's precipitation normal increased 0.95 inches to 34.08 inches per year; snowfall normals increased 1.2 inches to 32.4 inches and annual temperatures remained the same.

January Grain Movement in Iowa



Preliminary County Snowfall Estimates, January 2003 (inches)



Weather Summary For Iowa Agricultural Statistics Service
Prepared By AWIS, Inc.

For the Period: Wednesday January 1, 2003
To: Friday January 31, 2003

STATION	AIR							HDD TOT	HDD DFN	DAYS COLD	DAYS OF 32 COLD
	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION						
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS				
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North West District											
Estherville_AP	58	-12	17	+5	0.11	-0.60	4	1467	-157	31	28
Sioux_Center	58	-16	20	+6	0.23	-0.40	5	1372	-161	31	28
Spencer_AP	59	-14	18	+5	0.13	-0.39	3	1453	-133	31	29
Spirit_Lake	57	-14	16	+5	0.07	-0.49	2	1502	+110	31	30
North Central District											
Britt	56	-13	15	+2	0.27	-0.64	5	1552	-26	31	31
Humboldt_Wa_Plt	56	-11	17	+2	0.50	-0.23	4	1486	-41	31	30
Mason_City_AP	57	-12	17	+5	0.23	-0.66	4	1479	-128	31	28
Northwood	55	-14	14	+3	0.23	-0.59	4	1575	-79	31	30
North East District											
Decorah	56	-12	17	+3	0.56	-0.18	3	1472	-72	31	28
Dubuque_AP	56	-8	19	+4	0.25	-1.01	3	1424	-101	31	28
Elkader	57	-9	17	+1	0.55	-0.41	4	1487	+145	31	31
Independence	57	-10	16	+3	0.42	-0.55	6	1504	+98	31	31
Waterloo_Munici	60	-7	21	+7	0.30	-0.50	4	1360	-204	29	26
West Central District											
Audubon_Ag	62	-11	18	-2	0.00	-0.88	0	1437	+20	31	29
Carroll_Ag	61	-10	19	+3	0.35	-0.42	7	1428	-65	31	29
Castana_Exprmnt	62	-13	19	+0	0.20	-0.35	3	1407	-151	31	29
Guthrie_Center	65	-12	20	+2	0.45	-0.39	2	1403	-57	31	29
Harlan	64	-13	19	-1	0.39	-0.28	5	1416	-98	31	29
Jefferson	63	-9	19	+3	0.37	-0.40	4	1421	-72	31	29
Logan	66	-17	20	+2	0.44	-0.34	7	1387	-56	31	30
Rockwell_City	59	-12	17	-1	0.32	-0.33	8	1479	+2	31	30
Sioux_City_AP	64	-10	22	+5	0.22	-0.33	5	1326	-142	29	27
Central District											
Ames_Muni_Arpt	64	-7	20	+5	0.02	-0.72	1	1374	-145	29	26
Boone_Ag	64	-10	19	+3	0.46	-0.45	7	1423	-76	31	30
Des_Moines	67	-6	22	+4	0.28	-0.68	4	1315	-99	27	26
Eldora	58	-11	17	+3	0.29	-0.55	5	1467	-68	31	30
Marshalltown_AP	61	-9	19	+3	0.10	-0.73	2	1416	-75	30	27
Newton	64	-9	18	+0	0.30	-0.54	5	1437	-11	31	30
Perry	64	-8	19	+2	0.41	-0.29	5	1426	-54	31	29
Toledo	61	-11	17	+2	0.33	-0.52	4	1470	-38	31	30
East Central District											
Cedar_Rapids_Mu	64	-9	20	+3	0.36	-0.65	3	1398	-71	31	28
Davenport	61	-9	20	+1	0.36	-0.71	4	1375	-17	30	28
Iowa_City_AP	65	-6	22	+2	0.34	-0.66	4	1338	-38	28	28
Lowden	61	-10	17	+1	0.56	-0.63	5	1464	-2	31	30
Maquoketa	59	-9	17	+1	0.31	-0.80	3	1474	-16	31	30
Muscatine_2N	64	-6	20	-2	0.33	-0.92	4	1390	-168	30	30
South West District											
Clarinda	65	-17	21	+1	0.50	-0.38	5	1372	-23	31	30
Glenwood	68	-13	23	+3	0.68	-0.06	5	1309	-66	31	31
Oakland	66	-13	21	+3	0.51	-0.21	7	1362	-87	31	29
Red_Oak	66	-11	22	+2	0.41	-0.39	8	1326	-24	30	30
Sidney	67	-13	23	+3	0.45	-0.24	4	1292	-67	30	29
South Central District											
Allerton	67	-10	20	+0	0.48	-0.52	4	1388	-277	31	29
Beaconsfield	65	-14	20	+1	0.34	-0.36	5	1384	-17	31	29
Chariton	68	-8	20	+2	0.42	-0.53	5	1386	-35	30	29
Indianola	70	-8	21	+2	0.45	-0.51	5	1366	-41	31	30
Leon	67	-9	22	+2	0.34	-0.63	3	1340	-53	30	30
South East District											
Bloomfield	66	-7	21	-2	0.49	-0.63	4	1364	+50	30	30
Burlington_Muni	65	-5	22	+1	0.37	-0.87	8	1315	-26	28	26
Ottumwa	69	-6	21	+1	0.24	-0.74	4	1346	-24	28	27

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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